



Testimony in Support of: S.B. 12: AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT MATCHING FUNDS AND EXTENDING THE TIME PERIOD FOR DISTRIBUTING GRANTS FOR CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT.

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Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

Thank you for holding a public hearing on SB 12 – AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT MATCHING FUNDS AND EXTENDING THE TIME PERIOD FOR DISTRIBUTING GRANTS FOR CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT. I hope you will vote for this bill.

As president of the West Rock Ridge Park Association, I write to you today in support of SB 12, specifically the increase in bonding for parks infrastructure from \$15M to \$30M in Section 11 (1) of the bill.

Over the past few years, with funding for infrastructure effectively zeroed out, many parks have suffered due to crumbling infrastructure in the face of increased usage. Many Parks have seen 10-20% increases in attendance year over year even before the pandemic. The increase in wear and tear has been felt at West Rock Ridge State Park as well, with parking lots overflowing onto the streets nearly every nice day. Our park has suffered from a lack of funding for a number of years, resulting in crumbling access roads and retaining walls, the failure of which would limit access to historic land marks, scenic overlooks, as well as bike paths and hiking trails.

As pointed out more eloquently than I, funding for infrastructure must be made available to maintain the nearly 1,000 park buildings in our 110 State Parks. These parks are a revenue generating asset of the State, but without proper maintenance, they will lose their value to attract visitors and residents to Connecticut.

Passage SB 12 would be a first step in restoring much needed funding to maintain and improve our valuable State Park Infrastructure. I hope you will **VOTE YES**.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

Sincerely,

Theodore B. Lynn, Ph.D.
President
West Rock Ridge Park Association